

ON THE SPOT

# Would Penkovsky Have Kept a Diary?

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When asked about the authenticity of "the Penkovsky papers" (our spy in Moscow), a reigning Kremlinologist remarked, "If Penkovsky had kept a diary, the result might have been something like" his published articles.

"Nobody doubts that Penkovsky was an intelligence bonanza for the United States. But with all the risks he was already running, would he have kept a written diary of his treason?"

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Thomas E. Dewey never made it to the White House, but a junior member of his New York law firm did—Joseph Califano Jr., a special assistant to President Johnson on legislative programs and any other trouble-shooting assignment.

When the Brooklyn-born, Harvard-trained lawyer informed the partners he planned to go to work for Cyrus Vance, Defense general counsel in the Pentagon, all except Dewey advised him against it.

The man who thought he would be elected president in 1948 encouraged Califano to accept the Vance offer, saying that his most rewarding days were spent in public service as a special prosecutor in New York and governor of the Empire State.

Califano was lured to the White House by Johnson when the President learned from Vance himself that he had a brilliant young assistant. Almost instantaneously Johnson "stole" Califano for himself.

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One of Embassy Row's most intriguing games is to pigeon-hole where Presidential Assistant McGeorge Bundy stands on given foreign issues. The problem is that they find it hard to judge.

The French fluctuate, but the Germans have just about concluded that Bundy is in league with Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara in opposition to MIA, and any variation thereof, with Undersecretary of State George Ball and Secretary of State Dean Rusk favoring some "hardware solution" of the desire to give Bonn a share on nuclear management.

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Some administration officials believe Johnson would not have offered the business community the aluminum crisis (threatening to dump 300,000 tons from the government stockpile to offset an industry price increase, which was regarded as coy, covert and a transparent device to pressure the industry) if he had been in Washington, closer to older and wiser heads about business reaction to government pressures. He may now have won a pyrrhic victory, with the price hikes being rescinded but hard feelings remaining.

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Robert Weaver, highest ranking Negro in the Johnson administration, was put on a delicate spot when he was asked at a news conference whether he would like to head up the newly created cabinet department, Housing and Development.

Weaver answered yes, even though he knew President Johnson doesn't like to be anticipated or driven into a corner.

Yet his own pride and vanity were at stake, for the late President Kennedy had said publicly that he intended to name Weaver to a new urban affairs department if he could get it through Congress. This would have made Weaver the first Negro cabinet member.

Ironically, Kennedy's open espousal stands in Weaver's way. Johnson would like his own man, not a Kennedy hold-over (all that Johnson jazz about "I need you more than he did" has disappeared). But not to name Weaver now would be a harsh personal blow.

Some keen political observers believe the heavy Negro vote for Mayor-elect John Lindsay in New York practically demands that the President name a Negro to the cabinet, although they recognize that Johnson bristles when he is expected to act in predicted ways. In any case, there is not much time left in this cliff-hanger.

American top brass are being driven crazy by the continuing brazen use of Soviet "fishing"

trawlers near American South Asia military installations.

The moment B-52 planes from Guam began to be used in the Viet Nam war this spring, two

electronically-equipped Red trawlers with their ugly bug-like antennas stationed themselves four miles from the Guam air base.

Many of the joint chiefs wanted to protest if for no other reason than the hope that a really whoop-de-do fuss might help to deter the Soviet spy trawlers from trying more such maneuvers elsewhere.

But there was no U.S. protest. Sure enough the Soviet spy trawler fleet were so emboldened that they extended their activities to the Formosa Straits where they now brazenly trail the 7th Fleet.

Most impudent of all, several ships of the Soviet "trawler" fleet is now standing off shore near Chu Lai, Viet Nam. When the Marines made their amphibious attack, the Soviets were able to report the wheres and whens of the assault, plus its size instantly to the Viet Cong.

The absolutely crucial element of surprise was gone. As in the case of Guam, the spy trawlers can give notice to Hanoi in the North as well as the Viet Cong in the South the moment an attack begins.

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